

MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP

Success Stories from the Field

Standard Furniture Manufacturing Company (Frisco City)

Alabama Technology Network

Standard Furniture Benefits from Total Productive Maintenance Assistance

Client Profile:

Founded as a family-owned business in 1946, Standard Furniture is a manufacturer of designer home furnishings. Over the years the company has expanded and now has manufacturing plants in Bay Minette and Frisco City, Alabama. The company employs 450 people.

Situation:

Standard's management team realized that in order for the company to compete in the global company, they had to address the Lean philosophy and eliminate waste in its processes. The company had recently expanded its Lean implementation to include Total Productive Maintenance (TPM), which applies the waste elimination philosophy to the upkeep and maintenance of manufacturing equipment and machinery. Unable to conduct this training and assistance internally, the company looked to the Alabama Technology Network, (ATN), a NIST MEP network affiliate, and its Auburn University center for assistance.

Solution:

ATN evaluated a TPM Kaizen (continuous improvement) event at its Frisco City facility and the company agreed to try TPM using two of the most utilized machines in its plant. A week of intense hands-on training exceeded the company's expectations and improved the performance of the machinery. The assistance produced a stronger sense of ownership and pride among machine operators and reduced the amount of time maintenance personnel now spend on routine equipment operating issues.

Results:

- * Increased sales by \$500,000.
- * Realized \$45,000 in cost savings.
- * Invested \$300,000 in new equipment.

Testimonial:

"The TPM experience provided by the Alabama Technology Network really opened our eyes. Not only did it meet our initial hope, but it produced many side benefits that were not even anticipated."

Mike Bell, Vice President of Manufacturing